

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 6, 14, 19-22, and 30, objected to claims 27-30, and allowed claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-18, and 23-26. However, the Examiner indicated that claims 6, 14, and 22 contain subject matter that would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and, in the case of claim 22, to incorporate the recitations of the base and intervening claims. *See* Office Action mailed June 10, 2005, pg. 4. Applicants thank the Examiner for the recognition of allowable subject matter in the present claims. By the present Response, Applicants have chosen to place the present application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants amend claim 19 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 22 and the subject matter of intervening claim 21, as well as to correct a minor clerical error. Further, Applicants amend claims 6, 14, 20, and 27-30 for clarification of certain features. These amendments do not add any new matter. Applicants also cancel claims 21 and 22 without prejudice. Upon entry of these amendments, claims 1-20 and 23-30 will remain pending in the present application and are believed to be in condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Claim Objections

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 27-30 based on improper dependencies. Applicants amended the claims as set forth above to clarify the claim dependencies. Further, Applicants note that each of claims 27-30 depends from independent claim 26, which the Examiner already indicated as allowable. Consequently, dependent claims 27-30 are allowable on the basis of their dependency from a respective allowable independent claim, in addition to the subject matter recited in these dependent claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Examiner's objections and allowance of claims 27-30.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph


In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 6, 14, 20, 22, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's rejections, Applicants amended the claims as set forth above. In light of these amendments, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the instant rejections.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1-20 and 23-30. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Patrick S. Yoder
Reg. No. 37,479
FLETCHER YODER
P.O. Box 692289
Houston, TX 77269-2289
(281) 970-4545

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

ALLEN-BRADLEY COMPANY, LLC
Patent Department/704P Floor 8 T-29
1201 South Second Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53204
Attention: Mr. Alexander Gerasimow
Phone: (414) 382-2000